



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION: Ecosystem  
Management Initiative**

From: **Chief, Environmental Analysis Division**

To: **Regional Administrators  
Federal Lands Highway Program Administrator**

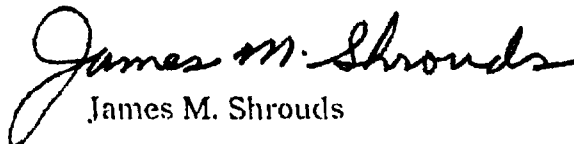
Date: **JUL 27 1995**

Reply to  
Attn. of: **HEP-42**

Volume I of the Report of the Interagency Ecosystem Management Task Force is attached. This task force was established in 1993 to carry out the mandate in the National Performance Review for Agencies to adopt "a proactive approach to ensuring a sustainable economy and sustainable environment through ecosystem management." As a part of this effort working groups were formed to do regional case studies on opportunities for an ecosystem approach to interagency management of natural resources. Examples of case studies are the Anacostia River Watershed, Coastal Louisiana, the Great Lakes, and South Florida. Volume I is an overview of the program and issues involved. Volume II will address implementation issues, and Volume III will address case histories in detail.

Volume I defines the ecosystem approach as a method for sustaining or restoring natural systems and their functions and values in a goal-driven, cooperative framework that integrates ecological, economic, and social factors to obtain a desired vision of future conditions in an ecologically-bounded geographical region. Public participation and access to information are emphasized as key elements critical to obtaining the desired objectives of sustainable ecosystems and economies. Recommendations in Volume I are consistent with the planning requirements in the ISTEA, and include joint planning and decisionmaking structures, regional interagency cooperation, and decentralization of management.

We recommend this report as a valuable management and planning resource for environmental coordinators, engineers, and community planners. Volumes II and III will be forwarded when they are available.

  
James M. Shrouds

Attachment

FHWA:HEP-42:PGarrett:nbx62067:7/25/95

Revised:7/26/95

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cc: **HEP-40, HEP-41, HEP-30, HEP-31,  
HEP-31, HEP-32, HEP-42(PGarrett),  
HEP-42(FRank), HEP-42(2Files)**

